

FEBRUARY PREACHING PLAN

Feb 2nd

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Jeremiah 1: 4 - 10
9.30 Denmark	G Wilson	Psalms 71: 1 - 6
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	1 Corinthians 13: 1 - 13
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 4: 21 - 30

Feb 9th

8.30 Lockyer	R Anderson	Isaiah 6: 1 - 8, (9 - 13)
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalms 138
10.00 AUC	R Anderson	1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 11
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Luke 5: 1 - 11

Feb 16th

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Jeremiah 17: 5 - 10
9.30 Denmark	A Hortin	Psalms 1
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 Corinthians 15: 12 - 20
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 6: 17 - 26

Feb 23rd

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Genesis 45: 3 - 11, 15
9.30 Denmark	M & P Cocks	Psalms 37: 1 - 11
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 Corinthians 15: 35 - 38
11.00 Mt Barker	E Burns	Luke 6: 27 - 38

THE ARC MONTHLY



*ALBANY REGION
CONGREGATIONS*

*Lockyer, Albany Uniting Church,
Mt Barker, Denmark*

FEBRUARY 2025



*The peace of God be in your heart
The grace of God be in your words
The love of God be in your hands
The joy of God be in your soul
And in the song that your life may sing.*



Message from the Manse: Myths

Myths help us to make sense of what we experience. They also help to give us reasons for our actions. When one group of people persecutes another, negative myths about the target group are often given as the reason. For instance: those people steal our jobs; refuse to better themselves; are born criminals; worship devils, and so on. Myths about 'other' people are usually created by their enemies, and can end with calling people names, or labelling them as 'vermin'. Please think about this, and notice when this is happening in the world, in Australia, in our circle of friends...

We know about antisemitism and about racism, which both result from misunderstanding, misinterpretation, myths creating fear. These days we also are familiar with fear of Islam, fear of Muslims. Most people in our culture may believe that all Arabs are Muslims. This is not the case. The reverse, the thought that all Muslims are Arabs, is also wrong. Another misconception is that Muslims worship a different God than we do. They don't. Muslims worship the God of Abraham, as do we. They see Jesus as a prophet, not as their 'saviour' and that makes a difference, of course.

Two of the myths which are quite commonly accepted by – Christian – westerners, I would like to highlight this month. The first is that "Jihad" means 'holy war'. It does not. The term 'Jihad' is used by Muslim people the way the word 'crusade' is used by Christians. It is a way of describing a joint effort to fight e.g. injustice, disease or poverty, not fighting people. Muslim people are taught that they share history and values with Judaism and Christianity. The three religions began with God's covenant with Abraham. The Koran, or Qur'an is the Muslim Holy Book. The text refers to the Jewish and Christian Scriptures with approval. All three holy texts speak about prophets through whom God is revealed. Islam teaches that all prophets called for creating a society in which people are treated as equals, regardless of wealth or power or talent. People share a moral responsibility, basic rights and dependence on God. The

DIARY DATES

- FRI 14th FEB** SCOTS STALL at CWA Hall, Serpentine Rd
9am – 3pm daily. Come and help us to build up again. Enjoy a delicious morning tea or lunch and support the fund raising for “Free the Bears”.
- TUES 11th FEB** LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12noon
AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome
- THUR 20th FEB** FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea, 10am, Vancouver Café,
ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947

DIRECTORY

- MINISTER** Rev Corina van Oostende 0417 169 544
Email: Corinamode@gmail.com
- PASTORAL CARERS**
- | | | |
|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| Denmark | Margaret Cocks | 0428 608 620 |
| Lockyer | Joan Wright | 0429 413 759 |
| Mt Barker | Sue Wilson | 0437 184 692 |
| AUC | Edith Verran | 9841 2729 |
- PRAYER COORDINATOR** Heather Bailey 0428 936 824
- AUC OFFICE** **Open Hours:** Tues – Thurs 8.45 – 12.45pm
Phone 0472 732 441
Email arc@ucwa.au
Address PO Box 5170 Albany WA 6330
- MAGAZINE** ferry@omninet.net.au

Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>RECORDING</u>
<u>2nd Feb</u>	C Ferry	E Burns	A Tero	M Vertigan
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>Anne Hortin</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	

<u>9th Feb</u>	A Gunther	A Tero	M Gunther	M Little
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	<i>Alan Hortin</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	

<u>16th Feb</u>	D Hockey	A Lucas	C Ferry	M Vertigan
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	

<u>23rd Feb</u>	D Coxall	W Dwyer	A Tero	J Pell
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	

MORNING TEA LOCKYER ONLY

2nd Feb *M Hannington* **9th Feb** *J Dunbar*

16th Feb *J Thompson* **23rd Feb** *S Wood*

Please swap with someone if you are unable to take a turn, thanks to those willing to take part to help make services run smoothly

What's a miracle that can be done by a complainer? Turn anything into whine.

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible? Noah; he was floating his stock while everyone was in liquidation.

Qur'an says that God appointed human beings as stewards to protect and maintain equality, especially paying attention to society's weakest members: the poor, orphans and slaves. (Sounds familiar, does it not?) This is not an easy thing to do, and therefore the Qur'an promises guidance, and forgiveness when people go astray. What is important is that believers continue to make an effort. God will judge them by their intentions, not by their achievements. All people who struggle in the way of God, people who believe and do good works – whether Jewish, Christian, Muslim or otherwise – have nothing to fear. The Qur'an (22:78-79) puts it like this, "Believers, bow down and prostrate yourselves in prayer and worship your Lord and do good deeds, and you will prosper. And struggle for God as you should struggle". That struggle is the 'greater jihad' in Arabic, the language of the Qur'an: a struggle to control our instincts like greed, laziness and self-concern. There is a 'lesser jihad' too, by which is meant struggle by people who are wronged. In Judaism, the Israelites are told to fight oppressors and kill them if necessary (Deuteronomy 20). In Islam, people hear, 'Fight in the way of God those who fight you, but do not commit aggression; God does not love aggressors.' Military holy war can only be declared by a correctly founded government. Due warning must be given and efforts need to be made to reach a peaceful settlement. Civilians must be protected – particularly women, children, the elderly and clergy – property must not be destroyed unnecessarily and requests for ceasefire must be honoured. Terrorism most definitely does not fall under these legal requirements

The second myth I want to draw your attention to is the idea that suicide bombers will be welcomed to heaven by 72 virgins. No reward is promised to anyone committing suicide or to people who engage in acts of terrorism. Both are regarded as grave sins. The prohibition of suicide is repeated throughout Islamic teachings, because it reflects loss of hope in God. Islamic law also forbids it. Terrorism is condemned in the law as well. Terrorist acts cannot be

counted as jihad. Jihad is to be used for self-restraint and for any kind of effort to further the Islamic goal of social justice. Rather than jihad, terrorism is qualified as *hirabah*, meaning unlawful warfare. The Qur'an says about this 'If anyone kills a person – unless in retribution or for spreading corruption in the land – it is as if he kills all mankind, while if any saves a life, it is as if he saves the life of all mankind' (5:32). Random violence causes everyone to be fearful, and that causes social disharmony, 'disorder in the land'. This kind of fear is considered to be the opposite of the sense of peace and security that Islam means to bring. "Peace" is part of the standard Islamic greeting. *Salam alaykum* means Peace be with you, shalom. The terms Shalom, *salam* and *Islam* have the same Arabic root. (For your interest: this root is *sīn-lām-mīm*, which means "to be safe, faultless, and secure".) Because of the damage done by terrorism, Islamic law mandates capital punishment for terrorism. Nowhere in the Qur'an is there a reward for anyone going to heaven which has many virgins in it. Heaven is described, but who will greet people upon arrival is vague. Angel-like creatures may be meant. The number 72 is significant in Zoroastrianism, an ancient Iranian religion. Its scripture has 72 chapters and male believers wear a special belt during prayer, made of 72 perfectly white wool threads.



The name for this belt is kushti, meaning 'pathfinder' or 'guide for the soul'. The Christian guide for the soul is found in our Holy Bible, and we wear the sign of the cross as a reminder of the Way to find our way in life, the way Jesus showed us. We are different, and 'do' religion differently, but all true religions strive for Peace, Shalom, Salam.

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

After a break from the regular routine of spending the week before the last Sunday of the month putting a magazine together, there are mixed feelings when it comes to resuming this practice for another year. On the one hand there is the challenge of sourcing material from people who already have busy lives and deadlines to meet, when I also have commitments to meet and the usual interruptions and changes of plans to sort out. However, the delight in finding a reply to my pleas instead of the usual junk mail in my inbox and the challenge of arranging it to fit together in an orderly fashion and making sure information is correct, up-to-date and of interest makes it all seem worthwhile and I do appreciate the effort put in by those who contribute. Corina is a very busy person with many demands on her time but never lets me down and I find her articles on myths interesting and enlightening. If you hear something repeated often enough or just make a quick assumption without giving it due thought it is easy to simply believe it is true, especially if it makes a good story like the lady who refused to dust her house because she had read the phrase 'ashes to ashes, dust to dust' in the bible and became afraid to dust in case the dust was from someone who had died.

Corina also likes to ask "If it cannot be done with love, is it worth doing?" so for anyone who believes the myth that I enjoy everything that I do, it is not true. There are many things I do that I don't like doing, dusting and vacuuming come into that category, but I do them because they have to be done, at least occasionally. It is not so much about liking the task or not however, it is the attitude, lending a hand where you can, sharing, caring, fitting in that phone call or writing a short note to someone too far away to just drop in and say hello. Done with love is by far the best way of making it worthwhile doing, even doing those household tasks have their reward when everything is clean and shining.

Best wishes for the year ahead, Clare



Those who attended The Quiet Space on Saturday 25th January would have enjoyed the music provided by the guitar playing trio Misty Gem whilst taking the opportunity for some peaceful reflection. The trio also occasionally participate in services at AUC or Wesley Church as it is more commonly known. In future, The Quiet Space will no longer happen on a regular basis on the last Saturday of the month but hopefully will still happen from time to time when musicians are available.

BITS FROM BARKER: Happy New Year to all. Pauline has got away to a good start, currently enjoying a cruise on the Murray Princess. Last year ended on a sad note as Eileen passed prior to Christmas. Her family held a private cremation service for her and Corina paid a tribute to her with a minute's silence at our Sunday service. Our congregation is definitely shrinking, especially when some of our regulars are absent as happened last Sunday. However, we keep going and continue to hold a monthly service at Overton Aged Care. The January service there went well and is appreciated. Sue Wilson

LOCKYER NEWS: We may be few in numbers, and maybe not so young these days, but there is still life in our congregation. On a good Sunday we can have a dozen or so at our Worship at 8.30 am and when our numbers dwindle a bit, we form a semi-circle around the Worship Leader. Corina is able to bring Louise to play our historic pipe organ. At other times we read the hymns, which can be a different experience as we are able to concentrate on the wording rather than our singing.

Prior to Christmas we provide boxes for people to make donations of non-perishable foods which is then given to Young House to help with their celebrations. The Heirloom Quilters, who use the hall once a month, also contribute to these donations. Also, we have cash donations which we give to Young House to spend as they see fit, this contributed over \$300 for them.

The Christmas Bowl Appeal is also well supported, with donations amounting to over \$200, plus some private online donations.

Ladies Fellowship will recommence in February, and they are good supporters of Uniting World, together with other erstwhile causes.

Bible Study on each Thursday will also commence shortly.

Joan Wright is still languishing in hospital and looks forward to going home, maybe next week. June Bowman is currently not too well but recovering. Otherwise, as we get older, I guess the aches and pains become a bit harder to put up with!

Alan Hortin

PRAYER PROMPTS: Please continue to keep Allan and Judy in your prayers, Judy has been troubled by angina and needs to rest up for a while. Pray for those in hospital or nursing homes and pray for those affected by war or unrest, particularly for the children and for those kept as hostages. Continue to pray that the ceasefire in Gaza holds.

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS:

Although we are no longer doing the Bargain Bonanza stalls, I am still running my stall at Scots Markets to fundraise for the 150 shoeboxes we plan to do this year, our final effort. From the time the markets moved to the CWA Hall in Serpentine Rd, the stall holders have not been doing so well but we hope business will build up in time. I personally need something to keep me active so decided to keep on with my biscuits and a small stall to raise funds for our shoeboxes. When we have finished doing boxes at the end of the year, I will send money raised by my stall after that to Samaritan's Purse for their shoeboxes.

For the 150 boxes for this year, we picked up the exercise books we needed when Office Works put out their cheapies a couple of weeks back but we are still in need of the usual tennis balls, marbles, dinky cars, little wooden toys, or other small toys, toothbrushes, combs, and biros (coloured only). The undies we need are for age groups 2 – 4, 5 – 9 and 10 – 14, for both boys and girls and available at Kmart in packs of 7 for \$5.50. We have enough for girls 10-14 and boys 5-9. We are relying on Esma to make us more of the beautiful big bags with handles that we need and on Wendy to provide us with the face washers and handkerchiefs we use to wrap the toothbrushes in, we no longer include soap.

I am still collecting 1 metre square knee rugs and medium size teddies for "Wheelchairs for Kids". I pass them on to the local collector, Barbara, 3 times a year and I also collect egg cartons to pass on to Foodbank.

God's blessings to you all, Edith

Samaritan's Purse: Supporting storm victims in Jesus' name

Super typhoon Yagi tore through northern Vietnam on September 7th 2024 leaving a trail of death and destruction in its wake. It was the strongest storm to hit the south-east Asian country in three decades. Nearly 300 people were killed and over 1,900 injured as torrential rainfall triggered massive flash floods and landslides. Sustained winds of 160km/hr ripped homes and businesses apart. Flood waters swallowed whatever the winds didn't destroy. In all, hundreds and thousands of houses, crops, and livestock were wiped out. More than 100,000 people were displaced, having lost everything.

Samaritan's Purses quickly responded. Our staff waded through flooded streets and neighbourhoods checking on families and distributing hundreds of emergency supplies – lifejackets, torches and whistles. Our DC-8 cargo jet landed several days later with 20 tons of critical aid, including solar lights, household water filters, jerry buckets and kitchen kits for 3,000 families. An additional load of supplies arrived soon afterward on our Boeing 757 aircraft and Samaritan's Purse Australia shipped four pallets containing another 3,500 relief items. A 78-year-old woman named Tran, told our staff "I've lost everything. My house, furniture, crops, and livestock, everything I had was washed away in the landslide." Tran fled for her life and was able to escape to the home of a nearby relative, but they had no electricity or clean water. When our supplies arrived, she was among the first to receive help. She is now able to filter contaminated water to stay healthy, cook with new kitchen supplies, and see at night with a solar powered light.

"Thank you, Samaritan's Purse, for providing these important items at this time," she said. "I feel very happy and touched by the care."

Samaritan's Purse has been working in Vietnam for more than 25 years. We praise God for the strong relationships He has blessed us with that enable us to respond quickly to the hardest hit areas to help meet critical needs.

Sincerely, Franklin Graham